

















THE PREMIER AT NEWCASTLE

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**A ROUND OF ENGAGEMENTS.**

**AN ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION.**

(FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.)

**NEWCASTLE, MONDAY.**

The Premier, Mr. G. H. Reid, left Sydney yesterday morning by the 9 o'clock train for Newcastle, where arrangements had been made that he should go through a round of engagements, including the reception of a number of deputations and a dinner in the afternoon; whilst at night a "mass meeting of citizens" was held, at which the Premier was the

Turney arrived at Newmarket at a quarter to 10 o'clock. The first gentleman on the platform to greet the Premier was Mr. Brunker (the Colonial Secretary), who had journeyed from Maitland, where he had been staying over Sunday, for the purpose of accompanying the Premier to the reception and the names of prominent citizens were then introduced. These included Messrs. W. T. Dick, M.L.A., H. W. Lee (chairman of the reception committee), R. Langer (secretary), J. Gregson (superintendent A. S. Company), W. F. Parker, P.M. (city engineer), M. L. Macfarlane, Chamber of Commerce, John Hall, J. H. Brown (president School of Arts), R. Hall, J. P. Hall, J. R. Rodgers, J. W. Birch (chairman of West Maitland), Captain H. H. Cross (chairman of the Marine Board), Captain Weatherall (secretary of the Marine Board), and Mr. J. G. Macdonald, M.L.A. The Premier was accorded an enthusiastic reception.

**A PROMISE OF PUBLIC WORKS.**  
The first session of the Public Works and the Colonial Secretary at the Council-chambers at half-past 2 o'clock. It was introduced by Mr. Edden, M.L.A., who was accompanied by Messrs. Dick and Watkins, M.L.A. The deputation was from the district officers of the Miners' Association, consisting of Messrs. J. Cudley (General Secretary), Adam Cook (president), and J. M'Fadyen (treasurer), who asked that the Government should undertake some public works in the district with the view of relieving the distress. The miners, it was explained, having done a great deal of work, might be approached with reasonable prospects of success.

**THE PREMIER,** in reply, said that he knew that

throughout Australia the great industries were depressed and the great numbers of the unemployed were carrying out public works instead of competing in the labour market in a time of prosperity. At the same time he had a great objection to anything like pauper relief. If anything was done it must be on a cash basis. There must be no extravagance. The Government must not be asked to spend time and money to give out, all through the country, such work as would be of benefit to the people. It was the duty of the Government to watch the *vicissitudes* of the country and to give assistance wherever possible. He hoped that in a few days the Ministry would be able to announce some measures which must be taken which had been kept back for some time, but which it was proper to carry out. These, he hoped, would relieve the depression temporarily. The Government, of course, could not permanently relieve the distress. He looked upon the present as a bad time and he hoped that the Government would be able to do something to help the people out of the depression.

prise would shortly recover from the shock which it received at the time of the bank crisis. In the meantime, people must not be allowed to starve, and the best way to keep them alive was to give them employment. He proposed that the Government should have no objection in saying that the Government would soon be able to give some substantial relief in the way of public works to the labour markets of the country. He could get any amount of money in the Sydney market. He was completely confident that he could find a loan of £100,000, but the thing was to spend the money in a proper manner, and it would be the duty of the Government to see that no money was thrown away.

Mr. BEUNING said that he regretted very much the distress which existed in the country. He considered that the Government should be helped by the Premier. He had known the district longer probably than anyone present. He had seen war changes take place,

He had known it in times of great prosperity as well as in times of adversity. Just now greater depression prevailed throughout the whole of the country. The want of employment was one of the most difficult as well as one of the most important with which the Government had to deal. A large number of their fellow-creatures were now wandering bread, and it was the duty of the Government to do all that was in their power in connection with anything it might do. He thought it quite possible that after due inquiry some of the requisitions of the deputation with regard to public works might be accepted with, but at the same time the Government would be careful not to establish any new institutions.

MR. EDEN thanked the Ministers for their attention, and the deputation then withdrew.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY.

[illegible]

Mr. BURNS said that when the bill was introduced in Parliament, at 2 o'clock in the morning, he was the only member being brought forward in that manner. He recognized the value of the water works in the district, and agreed that there should be no over-taxation. The works were estimated at £170,000, but finally cost about £200,000. He knew the disabilities under which a large number of the ratepayers were labouring, and he was glad to give special promises with regard to Mr. Deane's motion, he would do all he could in the matter of giving some relief to the district.

det. A number of minor grievances were also mentioned. Mr. Read promised to bring the matters mentioned under the notice of the Fisheries Commission. The great object of the commission was, by being in a full which would enable the industry to be worked with more profit to those engaged in it.

**THE QUARANTINING OF DOGS.**

Mr. J. Brown introduced a deputation, consisting of the masters of vessels in port, who complained of the excessive charges for the quarantining of dogs. It cost from £2 to £2 10s for each animal. It was asked either that the captain of a ship should be allowed to keep any dogs on board, or that, in any case of removal, or else that the present charge should be greatly reduced. The Premier promised to bring the matter under the notice of the Minister of Mines.

**THE DINNER.**  
In the evening Messrs. Reid and Brunker were entertained at a dinner at the Great Northern Hotel, by Mr. W. Lee, co-owner of the hotel, and about 60 guests were present. A short toast was given through "The Queen" and "The Governor" were duly honoured. Mr. R. Langer proposed "The Ministry." Mr. Reid responded in a few words in which he thanked the freetraders of New Zealand for the efforts they had put forward at the last session.

Mr. BRUNKER, in reply, stated that he was pleased to be present. Parliament was interpersed with a number of young Australians, who, although they lacked Parliamentary experience, would do well for their country. He was delighted, and was ashamed for not taking off the Customs duties immediately. It would, however, have been impossible to do this without knowing how

“The money received from the duties was to be retained by the Government, and the country had in view was to govern the country as efficiently as possible. A country like Australia ought to be so governed with little expense. Unless he had been assured that the first object of the Government was economy, and that new taxes would not be levied on the shoulders of the people, he would not have been co-operating with the Premier. (Mr. Reid “Hear, hear.”) He could always do the best he could to promote the best interests of the country.

Mr. F. SMITH proposed the “Parliament,” which was carried by W. G. Dick, M.L.A.

Mr. BRUNCKER proposed “Proportion to Greater District.” He said he hailed with satisfaction the fact that Newcastle, which depended on the outside world, was now represented by freetraders. There was great depression.

At Newcastle, this.

ties of the north-western districts and if it had not been crushed as it had been by the metropolitan district, Newcastle would now have been carrying on a good trade. The toast was responded to by Alderman Kidd and Mr. T. H. Edwards. The remaining toasts were "The Ladies," "The Press," and "The chairman." —

**MEETING IN THE MASONIC HALL.**

**THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.**

The meeting in the Masonic Hall in the evening was largely attended, a number of ladies being present. The chair was taken by Mr. J. J. W. Carr. Mr. RARR, on rising, was received with loud applause, and was listened to with attention throughout. He said he was glad that Newcastle had returned to principles of fraternalism. Four prot-

straders had taken their place. Mr. Elden says gave the Government fair play, and members from the surrounding districts were friendly to the industry. He and Mr. Brunker came out of gratitude to the district to return thanks for good done to the freetrade cause in July last. The result could only have been arrived at by great zeal on the part of local politicians. The freetrade party were greatly debilitated for the way in which the unions acted on that day. Referring to the policy of the Government,

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